

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (Original): A compacting mechanism for fitting to a surface over a refuse container, the compacting mechanism comprising a support member for fitting to the said surface, the support member having an aperture which in use is in register with an aperture in the said surface, a compacting plate mounted under the support member, an actuating rod, and means coupling the compacting plate to the actuating rod such that the rod may be manoeuvred from a storage position wherein the rod lies along the support member across the said surface and the plate is drawn up under the said surface to an operative position wherein the rod stands upright over the aperture in the support member and may be pushed downwardly through the registering apertures to push the plate down into the container.

Claim 2 (Original): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compacting plate is slidably and pivotally coupled to the actuating rod such that in the storage position of the rod the plate is coupled to the rod at a point intermediate its ends, the rod being manoeuvrable to its operative position by sliding the rod along its own axis until the coupling means reaches one end of the rod and then rotating the rod upwardly about said one end.

Claim 3 (Original): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 2, wherein the support member comprises a channel member extending in use across the said surface, the

aperture in the support member being formed in the base of the channel and the actuating rod being located in and slidable along the channel.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the other end of the actuating rod has a handgrip.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A compacting mechanism as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the actuating rod is adjustable in length.

Claim 6 (Original): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 4, wherein the actuating rod comprises at least two parts which are slidable one relative to the other to adjust the length of the rod.

Claim 7 (Original): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuating rod includes resilient retaining means for holding the two parts in an extended position of the rod, said resilient retaining means being overcome upon the compacting plate meeting a given resistance in use so that the one part retracts into the other to substantially cease further compaction.

Claim 8 (New): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 3, wherein the other end of the actuating rod has a handgrip.

Claim 9 (New): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating rod is adjustable in length.

Claim 10 (New): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuating rod is adjustable in length.

Claim 11 (New): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 4, wherein the actuating rod is adjustable in length.

Claim 12 (New): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 8, wherein the actuating rod comprises at least two parts which are slidable one relative to the other to adjust the length of the rod.

Claim 13 (New): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 12, wherein the actuating rod includes resilient retaining means for holding the two parts in an extended position of the rod, said resilient retaining means being overcome upon the compacting plate meeting a given resistance in use so that the one part retracts into the other to substantially cease further compaction.